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MAGAZINE

THE 5 THINGS
YOU MUST SEE
IN LONDON

London is a city full of things to do and sites to see. I've compiled what I believe to be the top five things you must experience while visiting this spectacular destination.



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#5 BIG BEN



Big Ben is a classic spot to visit when in London. Visible from miles around, it is adjacent to the Thames River. Technically, Big Ben is the massive bell inside the clock tower. The clock tower is known as St. Stephen's Tower.

Big Ben is a large structure. The Dial on the clock face is 23 square feet, the minute hand is 14 feet long and the figures on the face of the clock stand 2 feet high. Time has to be regulated by a stack of coins placed on the pendulum. Parliament is housed in the Palace of Westminster. A special light above the clock face lets the public know when parliament is in session. Big Ben, as a well known attraction in London, comes in at number 5 on the countdown.

#4


LONDON THEATER

London's theater makes the list at number four. The Society of London Theatre is the central overseeing organization of all theater in London and was founded by Sir Charles Wyndham in 1908. A long-standing London staple, the West End is London's main theater district. The heart of the West End is Shaftesbury Avenue, housing six theaters. Shows range from plays and operas to musicals and can be well known, such as Wicked, child friendly, like Oliver!, classic, such as Les Miserables, or new, like Love Never Dies. As the largest theater district in the world, the West End and London's theater make it in the top five things to do and see in London. Check out the Society of London Theater website.



On a tight budget? A great location to get tickets is tckts Ticket Booth, a discount ticket distributor found at Leicester Square, Brent Cross or online.

#3 WESTMINSTER ABBEY



A coronation church since 1066 and the final resting place of 17 monarchs, Westminster Abbey is a must see when in London. Full of history about the past kings and queens and a working church, the Abbey is a place you can find yourself lost in for hours. With an audio tour in hand, or a verger-led tour, you can find your way around artifacts, tombs, the church, memorials and monuments. More than 3,000 people are buried at the church and cloisters and there are more than 600 monuments and memorials, including those of Jane Austin, Geoffrey Chaucer, Charles Dickens and Sir Isaac Newton. Located near Big Ben and Parliament, Westminster Abbey is also the site of some royal weddings, including Queen Elizabeth II's. The Abbey is also home to the grave of the Unknown Warrior, the final resting place of a soldier killed in battle in France whose name and rank are unknown, and stands as a memorial to those who gave their lives in World War I. Want to know the hours of operation or more history? The Westminster Abbey website can help.



2012

THE OLYMPICS ARE COMING...



#2

TOWER OF LONDON



The Tower of London makes the number two spot on the list. A place full of history, the Tower of London houses exhibitions, such as royal armour, and the crown jewels- the greatest working collection of them in the world. Set next to the Thames River, this once working fortress includes the White Tower, East Wall Walk and Tower Green, the site of well-known executions, including Anne Boleyn. Want a tour? The Yeomen Warders, also known as “Beefeaters,” give fun and informative tours of the Tower every thirty minutes. All it takes is joining a group. To find out more visit the Tower of London website.



Fun Fact: There are great views of Tower Bridge from the walls of the Tower of London. While you're in the area, check it out.

#1 THE LONDON EYE



And the number one thing to do in London is...The London Eye. Opened in 2010, the London Eye is celebrating its tenth year. Located on the Thames River, this 442 foot tall wheel is quite the experience. It allows you to see 25 miles in all directions, and even as far as Windsor Castle on a clear day. Holding up to 800 passengers per revolution, "flights" take about 30 minutes and vary in price, depending on the rider's age and the type of flight. With an average of 3.5 million visitors each year, and the spectacular 360 degree views of London, the London Eye is at the top of the five tings you must see and do! Visit the London Eye website to get more information.

Letter from the Editor:

London is one of my favorite cities in the world. Even having been lucky enough to travel there twice, I still haven't seen all this wonderful city has to offer. Of the places I have been able to make it to, these five things are what I believe to be the must see places in London. They give you a bit of history, great views, perspectives on a different culture and way of life, and they are just plain fun and entertaining. Whether you are on a short stay for business, a family vacation or a European backpacking adventure, London is a must-see city. London has experiences you can get in no other place. The top five things to do and places to see just covers a fraction of what London has to offer. Just grab a map, start walking and you'll come across even more history, people and sites, and make memories you'll never forget. So grab your camera and get going! Happy traveling!

Alyson Wegener



About the Editor:

Alyson Wegener is a Public Relations/Advertising major at Oklahoma State University, graduating December 2010. She hopes to one day have a job that will allow her to travel so she can see even more of the world. She has been to London in March of 2000 and March 2010. She cannot wait to make her way back to London and explore the city even more.

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